

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2361**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman CHRIS TULLY**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Moen, Assemblywomen Speight, Swain, Murphy, Lopez and  
Carter**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires calculation of national average time needed to approve applications for initial credential in profession or occupation and use of average time as standard in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the approval of applications for initial  
2 professional and occupational credentials and supplementing  
3 P.L.1999, c.403 (C.45:1-3.3).  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. a. A professional board specified in section 2 of P.L.2013,  
9 c. 253 (C.45:1-15), and any other entity hereafter created under  
10 Title 45 to license or otherwise regulate a profession or occupation,  
11 shall collect, from each state in the United States where the  
12 professions or occupations regulated by the corresponding New  
13 Jersey board are regulated, data on the amount of time, or the  
14 average amount of time, the other states need or are required to take  
15 to approve an application for an initial credential in the profession  
16 or occupation. A board may contact a national or regional  
17 association to obtain data regarding average approval times in other  
18 states.

19 b. (1) Based on the information collected pursuant to  
20 subsection a. of this section, a national average of the time required  
21 or necessary to approve an application for an initial credential shall  
22 be calculated by each board for each profession or occupation it  
23 regulates.

24 (2) The calculated national average of the time for each  
25 profession and occupation shall be presented to the director of the  
26 Division of Consumer Affairs, or a designee, for review and  
27 approval. Upon approval by the director or a designee, the  
28 calculated national average of the time shall, on the first day of the  
29 next month after approval, be applied by the corresponding board as  
30 the timeline in which applications for initial credentials are to be  
31 approved for applications received after that date.

32 c. (1) After one year of using the calculated national  
33 average of times by the boards, the division shall review if the  
34 boards are meeting the requisite calculated average times for  
35 approval of applications for initial credentials.

36 (2) If the review demonstrates a board is not meeting the  
37 calculated time, licensing fees collected by the corresponding board  
38 shall be used to contract with a third-party, with expertise in the  
39 professions or occupations regulated by the specific board, to  
40 determine best practices the board is to implement to meet the  
41 calculated average time for application approval. Upon completion  
42 of the review by the third-party, the board shall implement the best  
43 practices immediately. The division shall review the data regarding  
44 approval of applications for initial credentials by the board subject  
45 to the provisions of this subparagraph after six months to ensure the  
46 calculated national average time is met.

1       2. The collection required pursuant to section 1 of this act shall  
2 be completed by the end of six months after the effective date of  
3 this act, after which there shall be an annual review by the boards,  
4 in collaboration with the director or a designee, to determine the  
5 accuracy of the calculations.

6  
7       3. Each board shall be entitled to retain all funds collected as a  
8 result of fees paid for an initial credential and for the renewal,  
9 reactivation, and reinstatement of a credential in order to administer  
10 the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
11 Legislature as this bill), until such time that a board is meeting or  
12 surpassing its calculated national average time for application  
13 approval.

14  
15       4. The director, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedures  
16 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and  
17 regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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19       5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the tenth month  
20 next following enactment.

#### 21 22 23 STATEMENT

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25       The bill requires the boards created under Title 45 in current law  
26 to collect, from each state in the country, the amount of time, or the  
27 average amount of time, required or necessary to approve an  
28 application for an initial credential for each profession or  
29 occupation in which the New Jersey board also issues a credential.  
30 A board may contact a national or regional association to obtain  
31 data regarding average approval times in other states. Based on the  
32 data collected, a national average of the time required or necessary  
33 for application approval is to be calculated for each profession and  
34 occupation and used by the corresponding board in New Jersey as  
35 the amount of time it has to approve an application for an initial  
36 credential. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, or a  
37 designee, is to review and approve the calculated national averages  
38 of times prior to their use by the boards.

39       After one year of using the calculated national average of times  
40 by the boards, the division is to review if the boards are meeting the  
41 requisite calculated average times for approval of applications for  
42 initial credentials. If the review demonstrates a board is not  
43 meeting the calculated time, licensing fees collected by the board  
44 are to be used to contract with a third-party, with expertise in the  
45 professions or occupations regulated by the specific board, to  
46 determine best practices that the board is to implement to meet the  
47 calculated average time for application approval. Upon completion  
48 of the review by the third-party, the board is to implement the best

1 practices immediately. The division is to review the data on the  
2 approval of applications for initial credentials by the board six  
3 months after the implementation of best practices to ensure the  
4 calculated national average time is met.

5 The boards have six months after the effective date of the bill to  
6 complete the initial collection of data and calculate the national  
7 average time. Additionally, an annual review of the calculated  
8 national average time is to be performed by each board, in  
9 collaboration with the director or a designee, to determine the  
10 accuracy of the calculations.

11 The bill stipulates that each board is entitled to retain all funds  
12 collected as a result of fees paid for an initial credential and for the  
13 renewal, reactivation, and reinstatement of a credential in order to  
14 administer the provisions of this bill, until the board is meeting or  
15 surpassing its calculated national average time for application  
16 approval.